

Inventor: Masami MATSUURA et al.
New Application
Preliminary Amendment

Remarks

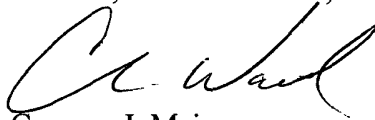
The present application is a divisional application of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to parent Application Serial No. 09/854,472, filed May 15, 2001, which has been allowed. Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment prior to an examination on the merits.

Claims 1-4, 10-21, and 23-26 are currently pending in the application. Claims 5-9, and 22 have been canceled without prejudice of disclaimer. Claim 23 has been amended to correct a typographical error and Claim 26 has been amended so as not to depend from canceled claims.

Applicants respectfully request early and favorable consideration on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER, & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220

GJM:CDW:PH:tdm
I:\ATTY\PH\24'S\243216\DIV PRELIM AMEND.DOC